

## **Activity #2: Essential Components**

### **Section 7: Putting It All Together**

#### **Part 1 – Responsiveness**

- Pay attention to children's signals, including verbal signals, gestures, and visual cues
- Maintain the children's interest by building on what they say or are interested in
- Bring all children into the conversation and ensure that one or two children do not dominate conversation
- Sometimes make a brief comment and wait for the child to respond
- Encourage multiple-turn conversations by waiting expectantly for the child to respond

#### **Part 2 – Rich Content**

- Model rich language that includes labeling, describing, comparing, linking, inferring, and explaining
- Maintain the children's interest by building on what they say or are interested in
- Include rare words and sophisticated vocabulary in your conversations
- Build vocabulary with child-friendly definitions of words children need to understand
- Use a variety of question forms to encourage higher-level thinking
- Create rich teaching units which provide children with multiple opportunities to revisit related ideas in close proximity in time through book reading, center activities/play, and opportunities to explore real objects
- Encourage peer interaction during play activities
- Sometimes gently probe with questions for more information or meaning
- Expand or extend children's ideas by using some of the children's words with more adult-like grammar or by adding another idea to their words
- Use a combination of direct instruction and discovery learning to build language
- Speak clearly and model using grammatically correct sentences
- Familiarize children with common social scripts
- Help children understand the structure of stories and how to construct their own personal narratives

### Part 3 – Emotional Support

- Be respectful and interested in children’s ideas and what they want to talk about
- Show children they are valued regardless of the ways they express themselves
- Use eye gaze, tone of voice, facial expressions, and body language to show you are listening and interested
- Build vocabulary with child-friendly definitions of words children need to understand
- Sometimes allow multiple children to talk at once, rather than shutting down a child’s idea
- Model good listening and turn-taking behavior by looking at the speaker and waiting for him to complete his idea before taking the next speaking turn (i.e., don’t interrupt)
- Support children’s language use when they need help expressing their ideas in a complete sentence(s)
- Help children learn to express their thoughts and feelings by teaching emotion vocabulary